

ART OF DARKNESS IN PIAZZA SCARAVILLI

28 May 2026

21:00h - 23:00h

Free admission

An evening of videomapping, sound and light to reactivate the nighttime life of Piazza Scaravilli. The artworks are projected on a loop from 21:00 to 23:00 on the facades of the square. Each cycle consists of two short videomapping artworks, followed by 5 minutes of shared darkness.

E SE FOSSE UNA CITTÀ MARTINA STELLA

Proposes an imaginary city called Buia, inspired by Italo Calvino's *Invisible Cities*. The project is structured as a sequence of textual and visual chapters, each dedicated to a paradox of darkness. The city is personified as a critical device that reflects on darkness as a space of opacity and relation.

OFFORWITH COLLETTIVO -ATI

A multimedia wordless work, in which smiling mouths and laughter emerge from the darkness as intermittent and overlapping apparitions. The video puts in tension the playful and the unsettling side of the darkness, exploring laughter and light as ambiguous and never neutral elements.

SHARED DARKNESS

ART
OF
DARK
NESS



Funded by
the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon
Europe Innovation Actions programme under Grant Agreement
no. 101177779



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA | DIPARTIMENTO
DI ARCHITETTURA

ADI

Associazione
Italiana
di Illuminazione



Comune
di Bologna

Quartiere
Santo Stefano



Bologna
Estate

L'arte del buio in Piazza Scaravilli fa parte di Bologna Estate 2026, il cartellone
di attività promosso e coordinato dal Comune di Bologna e dalla Città
metropolitana di Bologna - Territorio Turistico Bologna-Modena.

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The art of darkness as cultural heritage of the urban landscape

Art of Darkness (Horizon Europe, GA 101177779) is a European project that explores the cultural, aesthetic and sustainability values of darkness in urban cultural heritage sites, in line with the principles of the New European Bauhaus: beautiful, sustainable and together. Through a transdisciplinary and participatory approach, the project develops “darkness-sensitive” lighting and artistic lighting interventions in five pilot cities — Bologna, Tallinn, Copenhagen, Montpellier and Oulu — with the aim of creating sustainable, inclusive and meaningful nighttime experiences.

The project, coordinated by the Department of Architecture of the University of Bologna, explores darkness as a cultural, aesthetic and sustainability value of the nocturnal urban landscape, and focuses on Piazza Scaravilli: a space of strong historical and cultural significance, experienced daily by students and citizens, already equipped with a videomapping and lighting infrastructure. The project promotes a series of activities to rethink and reactivate the nighttime life of the square.

For this event, the artists selected through a public call present their works, the result of a co-creation process with students and artists invited to collectively rewrite the nocturnal imaginary of the space. *E se fosse una città* by Martina Stella and *Offorwith* by Collettivo -ATI will continue to be projected as ephemeral installations in the Bolognese nocturnal landscape.

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